

We claim:-

1. A copolymer comprising monomer units
 - 5 (i) of at least one N-vinylamide,
 - (ii) of at least one ester of an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, and, optionally,
 - 10 (iii) of at least one additional copolymerizable comonomer,

15 wherein the carboxylic acid ester exhibits alkoxylate residues of the general formula (I)

$$(R^1)_n-X-(CHR^2CH_2O)_w-(CHR^3CH_2O)_x-(CHR^4(CH_2)_yO)_z- \quad (I),$$

20 in which

25 R^1 is hydrogen or an aliphatic hydrocarbon residue with 3 to 40 carbon atoms;

25 R^2 , R^3 , R^4 are, independently of one another, hydrogen or C_{1-4} -alkyl;

30 w , x , z correspond, independently of one another, to a value of 0 to 100, the sum of w , x and z being greater than 0;

35 y corresponds to a value of 1 to 20;

x is N or O,

35 n being 1 and R^1 not being hydrogen if x is O; or n being 2 if x is N.
2. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the N-vinylamide is chosen from N-vinylpyrrolidone and N-vinylcaprolactam.
- 40 3. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is acrylic acid or methacrylic acid.
- 45 4. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid esters exhibit ethoxylate residues of the general formula (Ia)

$$R^1-O-(C_2H_4O)_z-$$

(Ia)

in which

5 R¹ is branched or linear, saturated or unsaturated C₅₋₁₅-alkyl; and

z corresponds to a value of 1 to 100.

10 5. A copolymer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the additional copolymerizable comonomer is chosen from (meth)acrylamide, (meth)acrylonitrile, alkyl (meth)acrylates and alkyl vinyl ethers.

15 6. A copolymer as claimed in any of the preceding claims, which comprises

(i) 99 to 60 weight% of monomer units (i);

20 (ii) 1 to 30 weight% of monomer units (ii); and

(iii) 0 to 10 weight% of monomer units (iii).

7. A composition which includes

25 (a) at least one active compound for the treatment of plants; and

30 (b) at least one copolymer as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6.

8. The use of the copolymer as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 as adjuvant in the treatment of plants.

35 9. The use as claimed in claim 8 for improving the effectiveness of an active compound for plant protection.

10. The use as claimed in claim 8 in plant cultivation, in agriculture or in horticulture.

40 11. The use as claimed in claim 8 for controlling undesired plant growth.

12. The use as claimed in claim 8 postemergence.

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13. The use as claimed in claim 8 in the spray treatment of plants.

14. The use as claimed in claim 8 as tank additive.

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